

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, despite the national media's best efforts to minimize the news, I am here to report, as the United States military confirmed in Iraq on Monday, weapons of mass destruction have been found in Iraq in the form of two separate artillery shells containing sarin and mustard gas, shells that had been used by insurgents to create roadside bombs. A 155 millimeter shell found last week included nearly a gallon of a deadly gas, a drop of which would kill a human being. Not that we should be surprised. Saddam Hussein killed or injured over 70,000 Iraqi Kurds using sarin gas munitions in 1988.

Where are the WMDs? We have been asked again and again. Mr. Speaker, they are where they have always been, hidden in Iraq, within the reach of terrorists, a threat to the Iraqi people, U.S. soldiers, and the world.

THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP'S MISPLACED PRIORITIES

(Mr. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, American military families will be disappointed to find out what the House Republican leadership is doing today. Unbelievably, during a time of war, they will pass this afternoon generous tax cuts for Members of Congress but put a freeze on military children's education funding and a freeze on the most important military housing improvement program in American history.

It is shameful that the House Republican leadership is saying that we can afford to give Members of Congress and families making up to \$250,000 a year a new \$1,000 tax credit per child, but we must freeze education funding for our military kids and put a 1-year hold on military housing improvements for 24,452 military families.

The House Republican leadership's misplaced and self-serving priorities make a mockery of the principle of shared sacrifice during time of war. Military families, and Americans who respect their sacrifices, have a right to be outraged.

□ 1145

TRIBUTE TO AGUSTIN VELASCO

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Agustin Velasco, a valued Member of our South Florida community. Agustin's contribution to our community dates back over 4 decades, serving as a leader, entrepreneur, and an example of determination to succeed.

Agustin is currently the president and original founder of the Inter-Amer-

ican Bank, a bank with humble beginnings, now proudly celebrating its 25th anniversary of service to the people of South Florida.

After fleeing Communist Cuba in 1961, Agustin sought refuge in Miami and quickly became a dynamic and flourishing member of our community. Joining the ranks of thousands of very hard-working Americans, Agustin became the realization of the American dream.

A father of two and a grandfather of five beautiful girls, I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Agustin Velasco and wishing him continued success.

Felicidades, Agustin.

CHANGE AND A NEW DIRECTION NEEDED FOR AMERICA

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, last night the House passed a \$2.3 trillion budget, leaving a \$500 billion hole and deficit, and showing that it is impossible to finance three wars with three tax cuts and get a different result.

In the 2000 election, President Bush said he was against nation-building. Who knew it was America he was talking about?

Let us look at the results of their economic program. An additional 2.5 million Americans are now unemployed since he has taken office; 44 million Americans without health care; 2 million more middle-class families have entered the rolls of poverty from the middle-class; we have the worst and most anemic wage growth since World War II at this time; and nearly \$1 trillion worth of corporate individual assets have been foreclosed on.

We have spent nearly \$112 billion in Iraq at this point, and we will vote today on another \$25 billion. With this budget, the administration is telling the American people they have two values, two principles, two sets of books; one for Iraq and one for the United States.

Mr. Speaker, we need a change, a new direction, to balance our values and our budget priorities for America's future and our children.

WE WERE NOT AT WAR IN 2000?

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, one of the distressing things about this partisan election year is to hear our friends on the other side politicizing national security. One of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle said that we were not at war when President Clinton was in office, suggesting that it was President Bush's fault that we are at war today.

I would like to ask, what would you call it then in the 1990s when terrorists

attacked our country, not once, but four times? In 1993, they killed innocent Americans at the World Trade Center; in 1996, they killed Americans at the Khobar Towers; in 1998, they attacked two U.S. embassies in Africa; in 2000, they attacked a U.S. Naval vessel, the USS *Cole*, again killing Americans.

Terrorists have been at war with us for years. We failed to admit it, despite the body bags.

Then in 2001, 9/11 happened.

We were at war long before President Bush came to Washington. All President Bush did was muster the courage and moral vision to admit it and fight back.

These political games only cloud the true issue that we are at war, and the more we hesitate to fight it, the more aggressive our enemies become.

CHALABI A CORRUPT ALLY

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this morning we learned U.S. military personnel and Iraqi police raided the home and party headquarters of Iraqi Governing Council member Ahmed Chalabi.

I am not surprised. Chalabi's past is riddled with allegations and convictions for fraud and corruption. That he may now be under investigation in Iraq for corruption or other crimes is hardly unexpected. Chalabi has always been a favorite at the Pentagon, even though the State Department sees him as divisive and untrustworthy.

Under the Iraqi Liberation Act, the Pentagon has fed him a steady stream of money in return for information. It was Chalabi who was the principal source for the false intelligence about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. When Saddam fell and the U.S. flew Chalabi and his cronies to Iraq to take up positions of power, it was he who championed the plan to rid Iraq of all Baath Party influence, including civil servants, a policy that angered many an Iraqi and deprived the coalition of experienced workers.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to distance ourselves from this man once and for all. Cut off his money. The taxpayers deserve a refund.

BENEFIT OF HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS AFTER JUST 6 MONTHS

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this weekend we are going to mark the 6-month anniversary where we in this House passed the conference report to modernize Medicare. Since that time, in 6 months' time, we are now on the threshold of having the Medicare prescription drug discount card, which will come to us June 1, and that will